

**PIERCE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT AREA AUTHORITY**  
**DBA PIERCE TRANSIT**  
**Pierce County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1993 Through December 31, 1993**

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**Schedule Of Federal Findings**

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1. Pierce Transit Should Follow FTA Sampling Procedures

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) under Section 15 of the Federal Transit Act requires all public mass transit systems to report passenger miles and the number of passengers using one of three methods; 100 percent count, an FTA suggested technique, or an alternative sampling technique. Pierce Transit selected an alternative sampling technique for sampling the motor bus purchased data. The sample selected was not random and a qualified statistician did not approve the sampling methodology.

Requirements for using an alternative technique are documented in the *FTA Reporting Manual for the 1993 Section 15 Report Year* which states in part:

A qualified statistician must determine that the sampling technique meets FTA's confidence and precision levels . . . .

The sampling technique used may not have been statistically valid in meeting the confidence and precision levels required by the FTA. Pierce Transit believes the sample taken presents a reasonable representation of their actual ridership even though it is not one of the methods allowed by FTA.

We recommend that Pierce Transit select a random sample and obtain approval from a qualified statistician on the sampling methodology.